

St Barnabas' Church of England (VA) Primary School

Newsletter Friday 2nd December 2016

Living and Learning Together www.st-barnabas.kent.sch.uk

Dates and Reminders

Tuesday 13th
December 9:30am
KS1 Nativity
in
the school hall

Thursday 15th
December 9:30am
KS1 Nativity
in
the school hall

Thursday 15th
December
6pm
KS2 Christmas
Concert in the
Church

Tuesday 20th
December
Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 21st
December
school finishes @
3pm

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Next week is the
last week for all
clubs



This Week in School

A huge thank you to everyone who made our Christmas Fair a success last Saturday. It was lovely to see so many people come and support the school. I pleased to say £1269.58 was raised for school funds and I am aware the total is still rising. Well done to Maple who won the class prize for the best hamper. It was a very hard decision and thank you for your support in creating such wonderful prizes!

This week has been assessment week with the children's learning being reviewed to check progress on areas we need to revisit. All the children have tried really hard and have shown resilience.



The children in KS1 are continuing to practise their Nativity and it is really coming together well. We will be shortly dusting down our Christmas Card Postbox. Can we please ask that you make sure you add the class name to the envelope for swift delivery!

Next week will be the last week for clubs until the new year.

Attendance –

As a whole school we have an attendance target of 96% to achieve. Last week the best classes were Maple and Chestnut- well done. Here is the breakdown for each class:

Acorn	91 %
Willow	93%
Beech	95.3 %
Maple	100%
Chestnut	100%
Lilac	96.3 %
Oak	94.4 %

This week in class:

Acorn

This week we have been learning the 'h' phoneme. We have been making hedgehog paintings with our handprints and have been doing some fantastic writing about superheroes. In Maths, we have been learning about solid (3D) shapes; sorting shapes by type, naming and describing them, playing memory games, building with wooden blocks and filling containers of different shapes with rainbow coloured rice in our messy tray. In our play, we have been building sleighs in the outdoor classroom, building dens that are getting bigger and bigger to accommodate more children and we have been exploring the ice and frost around school as the weather changes.

Willow

This week we have been busy writing a story, doing some Maths quizzes, reviewing the letter sounds we know and practising for our Christmas play. The children listened to the story of Frances the Firefly and made a fire safety poster to warn about the danger of matches and fire. The children have also been decorating stars, sequencing the Christmas story and talking about things that make them excited.

Beech

Beech Class are brilliant learners this week showing off their most amazing writing! I can see that everyone is improving and trying so hard at their cursive writing. An intriguing egg, which arrived at school on Thursday, sparked enough curiosity to write a story about what could be inside. We had a platypus, a dinosaur and even one hundred frogs! In Maths we are practicing breaking up a whole number into $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$. For example, a quarter of 12 is? This is a really tricky concept, which we keep practicing and I already see Beech Class helping each other to work out the answers. In RE we talked about 'The Christmas Story' and how giving gifts to Jesus can be related to us giving gifts to other people. We talked about who we might give a gift to and how we would feel. If they stick to their choices I think you will all be receiving some well thought through loving gifts!

Maple

This week we have got to grips with weaving, using our own cardboard looms. We have been learning how cloth was made during the Bronze Age for clothing and bedding. We have also investigated how the yarn was spun in order to begin the weaving process. I think we all agree that it would take us a long time to make anything as big as a blanket!

Now we have completed our learning on Hinduism in RE, we have turned our attention to Advent. The children learned what it means and how Christians mark the period of 4 weeks running up to Christmas. We also made a very big list of things we do to prepare for special times.

In English, we started our own stories based on Jack and the Beanstalk and have also been working on a descriptive piece of writing. We created artwork to show what we might like to find at the top of a beanstalk and generated descriptive words and phrases to help us with our writing.

Chestnut

This week we have looked at addition and subtraction using the column method and how to apply this in problem solving. We have been using all the skills we have learnt in English to write our own versions of a plan to defeat the gigantic sea dragons.

The children worked on a reasoning paper in Maths (looking at a range of mathematical problems). They worked really well and used all of their knowledge to answer the questions. In RE they thought about Advent and Jesus being 'the light of the world', they wrote poems reflecting on their ideas. In Science the class compared the human digestive system to the digestive systems of other animals. They found this fascinating!

Lilac

In Lilac Class this week we have also been completing assessments and the children have tried very hard and have completed them very sensibly. In their writing assessment the children wrote a diary entry as if they were a Victorian child, bringing together the information they have learned over the term.

In spelling they have developed their knowledge of homophones and have had some fun creating posters linked to these words. Art this week saw the children trying hard in their pencil technique and they have explored different ways of shading and creating pattern.

Oak

The children have been very busy this week doing assessments and they have all worked really hard.

We have been finding out about the Trojan Horse in our English lessons and we have started to write a newspaper report based on the story.

In Maths, we have continued our work on fractions and some of the children have been learning how to divide fractions by a whole number.

In our topic work, we have been learning about the differences between the Ancient Greek city-states of Sparta and Athens.

Do remember that next Thursday we will be holding our Greek day and the children will be dressing up as an Ancient Greek!



A note from Mrs Pring our Maths Subject Leader:

This week the school subscription to Mathletics has run out and we have moved over to a new program called My Maths.

During the next week a letter will be sent to you from school with your child's log in details so that they can access work set by teachers for homework.

We are moving to My Maths because it provides a facility for parents and children to use tutorials at home to revisit mathematical concepts that are needed for the homework. It is hoped this will help children in developing their mathematical skills and will be useful for parents who want to help their children.

PTFA

Christmas Concert

We have made the decision not to go ahead with the Christmas concert on the 10th Dec. The decision was made because we do not have sufficient numbers of children or adults to perform on the day. However, we will be bringing you our thoroughly enjoyable Summer picnic and concert with even more performers.

Saturday 4th February Lantern Parade

Christmas Lunch is on Tuesday 20th December.

Please sign up even if you usually have a Free Lunch, (no more forms accepted after Wednesday 7th December).

Lunch on the last day will be Fish and Chips



Something to think about:

If it is zero degrees today and tomorrow will be twice as cold, what temperature will it be tomorrow?

A banner for Easyfundraising. At the top, the logo "easyfundraising feel good shopping" is displayed. Below it, the text "Collect FREE funds for us when you shop online the easyfundraising way" is centered. The banner is decorated with various school-related icons like a green school bag, a purple pencil, a blue ruler, a yellow notepad, a blue triangle, and a yellow protractor. At the bottom, there is a three-step process: "1. Join" with a heart icon, "2. Shop" with a shopping basket icon, and "3. Collect" with a gold coin icon. Below the process, logos for partner retailers are shown: amazon.co.uk, John Lewis, Thomson, ebay, viking, Argos, and Sainsbury's.

On Saturday 12th March 2017 the Calverley Adventure Grounds will present, 'The Royal Tunbridge Wells Variety Performance'.

We are on the search for people from 3 years - adult, who would like to showcase their skills and talent live on stage at The Assembly Hall theatre

This is a big community event and a huge opportunity. We would love to show case as many talented local people as possible.

For more information contact:

hello@calverleyadventuregrounds.co.uk

Have a lovely weekend!

Do remember the Drama club and Choir are singing in the Victoria Centre from 1pm - 2pm on Saturday! We also have the School Nurse coming to coffee on Monday

Moirá Duncombe @StBarnabasSchoolTW